

Although I originally wrote you five days ago asking you to act on this clear violation of election law and the fairness doctrine (see text below), I understand that Chairman Powell has now decided that his own personal politics trump his duties as a public servant and is now officially derelict. I further understand that he claims that he cannot act against Sinclair's unlawful activity because it has no precedent and further that, even if he could act, he would not as it would violate the First Amendment. This is as ridiculous as it is detestable.

The FCC had no problems whatsoever dealing with the clearly unprecedented spectacle of Janet Jackson during the last Super Bowl and acted accordingly. And claims to First Amendment privilege cannot apply as the airwaves belong to all American citizens, so Sinclair cannot arrogate what it profits from for free to silence opinions with which it disagrees. That this FCC's actions reinforce Sinclair's objective of further media consolidation demonstrates yet again its pandering to private interests against overwhelming public opinion and endangering the public interest.

If matters are not taken to reverse this mean and anti-democratic decision, then Mr. Powell and his fellow partisans need to admit that they have irreconcilable conflicts of interest and resign. And if they lack the integrity to recuse themselves or stop this monumental injustice, be aware that there is not a single Sinclair affiliate complicit in this travesty that deserves to have their license renewed.

> [Original Message]

> From: Mat Wahlstrom  
<wahlstro@earthlink.net>

> To:  
<campaignlaw@fcc.gov>

> Cc:  
<Michael.Powell@fcc.gov>

> Date: 10/9/2004  
11:55:51 AM

> Subject: Sinclair  
Broadcast Group

>  
> Dear Mr. Chairman  
and Commissioners:

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> Following is a report in today's Los Angeles Times detailing an unprecedented violation of the fairness doctrine and a despicably blatant and illegal instance of electioneering. I formally request that this broadcast group be restrained from this and other efforts to hijack the public's airwaves to influence this election on behalf of their own partisan agenda.

>  
> Please let me know

what actions you are  
taking to  
investigate and  
redress this  
situation. Thank  
you.

>

> Sincerely yours,  
Mat Wahlstrom